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ABSTRACT

A follow-up survey of Oregon's 1979-80 twelfth grade vocational students and early leavers and their employers was conducted to determine what the former students were doing, what they thought of their vocational preparation, and how their employers perceived their preparation for jobs. The survey population consisted of all 1979-80 vocational education program completers and those early leavers who left school for a job. These 11,631 were mailed questionnaires, with a response rate of 23 percent. Respondents' supervisors/employers were then contacted, with an 84 percent response. Some of the findings of the survey were as follows: (1) participation in work or further education decreased since 1979, with an 8 percent unemployment rate; (2) 55 percent of the former students were employed or pursuing further education related to their vocational preparation; (3) more females were engaged in work or education related to their vocational preparation; however, males reported higher monthly incomes; (4) overall, former students appeared to be pleased with their high school vocational programs; and work-place supervisors appeared to be satisfied with the preparation of full-time employed respondents; and (5) respondents who were academically disadvantaged reported the highest unemployment rate. Tables illustrating the statistics are contained in the report appendix. (KC)

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ED217171

FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF 1980 STUDENTS OF OREGON HIGH SCHOOL VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS

February 1982

Division of Vocational Education
Oregon Department of Education
Salem, Oregon 97310

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PREFACE

This report summarizes the findings of the follow-up study of 1979-80 Oregon high school students and "early leavers." The survey was conducted in the winter and spring of 1981.

The Oregon Department of Education extends its appreciation to the respondents for their cooperation. Once the data was collected by the Oregon Department of Education staff, analysis was conducted by Larry Kenneke and Warren Suzuki. Achievement of follow-up study objectives was made possible through the combined efforts of all those who participated.

Verne A. Duncan
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Participation in work or further education decreased since 1979. The unemployment rate among the 1979-80 former students was eight percent.

- The proportion of former students employed or pursuing further education in areas related to their vocational preparation remained relatively high (55%).

- Males differed from females

  - More females were engaged in work or further education related to their vocational program.

  - Males continued to report higher monthly incomes (median $800 compared to $677 for females).

- Overall, former students appeared to be pleased with their high school vocational programs.

- In general, work-place supervisors appeared to be satisfied with the preparation of full-time employed respondents.

- When considered by disadvantagement, respondents who were academically disadvantaged reported the highest unemployment rate and lowest employment rate.

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the findings of a follow-up survey of Oregon's 1979-80 twelfth grade vocational students and early leavers. The survey was conducted by the Oregon Department of Education. A primary goal was to gather data about activities and perceptions of Oregon vocationally trained students after they left their formal high school training. A second goal was to gather data from employers (supervisors) of vocational program completers employed full-time in related occupations. Data were collected as a basis for future program planning and improvement.

Survey Population

The survey population consisted of all 1979-80 vocational education program completers and those early leavers who left school for a job. In March 1981, 11,631 questionnaires (Appendix I) were initially mailed; there was one follow-up mailing to nonrespondents. The response rate was 23 percent. The subjects were asked whether or not their work supervisors could be contacted. A questionnaire (Appendix J) was sent to supervisors of respondents who had indicated that they were employed full-time in occupations related to their vocational preparation. The response rate was 84 percent.

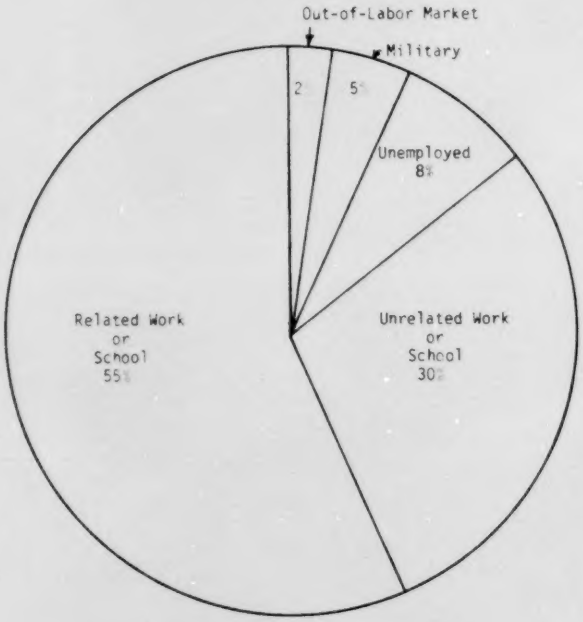
Only eight of the respondents were classified handicapped learners during their participation in vocational programs; therefore, detailed analysis was not conducted on this group. Because of the low response from early leavers (35), valid analysis was not possible. This report will be concerned only with those who enrolled in approved vocational programs during the twelfth grade. Hereafter, they will be referred to as either former students or respondents.

Current Activity

Figure 1 shows the current activity of former students coupled with the relatedness of their employment and/or further education to their vocational preparation. Fifty-five percent of the former students were engaged in related work or schooling. Another 30 percent of the respondents were working or pursuing further education but not in a related area. An eight percent unemployment rate was reported by respondents. Seven percent of the respondents were either in the military or otherwise out-of-the-labor market. (Appendix A presents the distribution of current activities by program area.)

Figure 1

Current Activity of Former Students and Relatedness of Work or Further Education to Vocational Programs (N=2034)



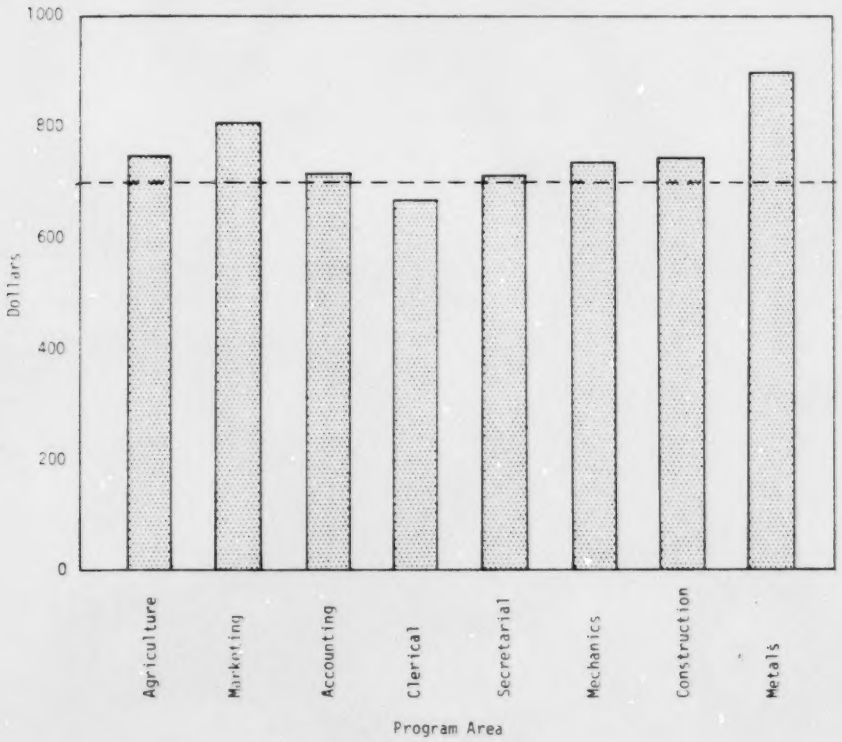
The proportion of respondents employed in civilian occupations or enrolled in further education related to their vocational preparation was less than in the prior year (55% vs 62%). The proportion for 1980 (55%) was nearly the same as that reported two years ago (54%). The proportion of former students engaged in work or further education not related to their vocational preparation has consistently declined over the past three years (46% in 1978, 38% in 1979, and 30% in 1980 respectively).

Income

Average (median) monthly salaries of former students employed full-time in related occupations by program area are shown in Figure 2. The median monthly salary for all respondents was reported to be $701. This represents an increase of $14 per month over last year. Respondents employed in metalworking occupations reported the highest median monthly income ($900). Those employed in the clerical occupations reported the lowest median monthly income ($680). (Additional monthly income data appear in Appendix B.)

Figure 2

Average (Median) Monthly Salaries of Former Students
Employed in Related Occupations
By Program Area*



Overall median salary - - - -

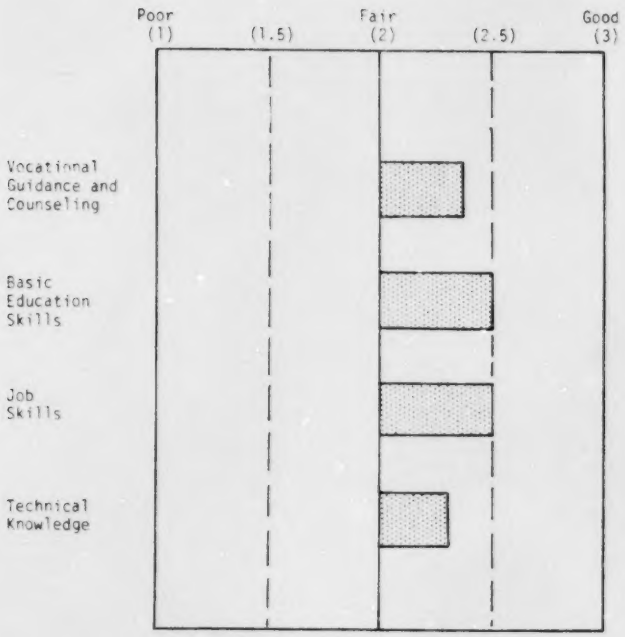
*Not all areas reported because of low response rate

Former Student Ratings

Former students were asked to rate their high school programs in terms of vocational guidance and counseling, basic education skills, job skills, and technical knowledge preparation. Respondents were generally satisfied with their preparation, as can be seen in Figure 3. Additional information is provided in Appendix C.

Figure 3

Average Former Student Ratings
of High School Programs
(N=2500)



Supervisor Ratings

Supervisors were asked to rate former students employed in related occupations. They were asked to rate their employees in four areas: vocational training, overall value of training as it related to job requirements, job preparation in relation to other employees, and performance on the job. Supervisors were first asked to rate the vocational training received by employees in the areas of technical knowledge, work attitude, and work quality (Figure 4). Supervisors generally perceived the training as "good."

Figure 4

Average Supervisor Ratings of Vocational Training Received by Former Students (N=221)

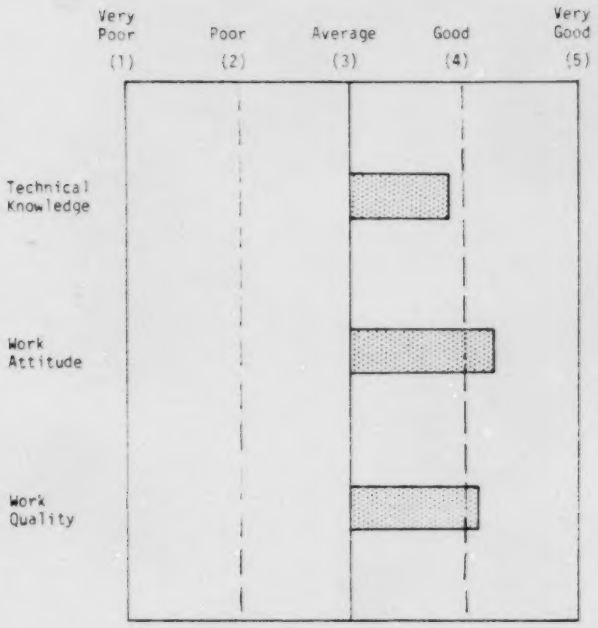
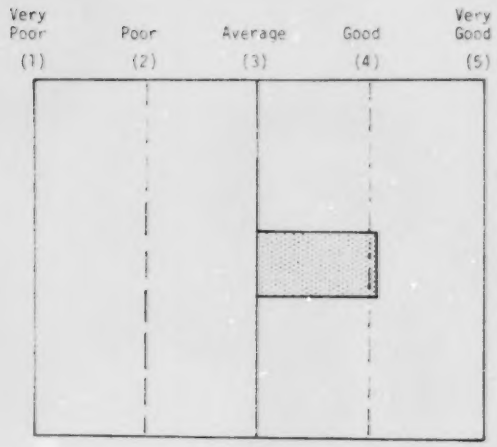


Figure 5

Average Supervisor Ratings of Former Students' Overall Vocational Training As It Relates to Job Requirements



Supervisors also were asked to indicate an overall rating of the former students' vocational preparation (Figure 5). In general, supervisors perceived the vocational training received by the former students as "good."

Supervisors rated former students' preparation in relation to other employees in the work group who did not receive the same training. Supervisors generally indicated that the former students were "better prepared" for their jobs (Figure 6).

Figure 6

Average Supervisor Ratings of Former Students' Preparation in Relation to Other Employees

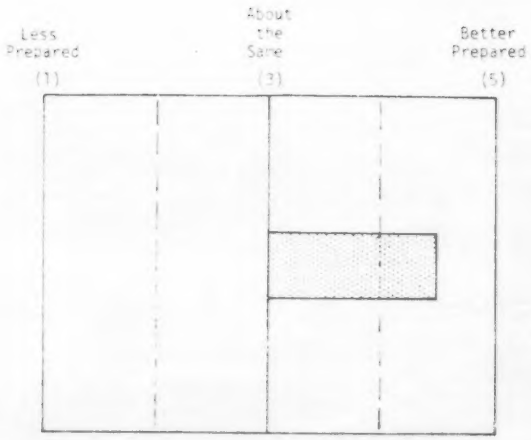
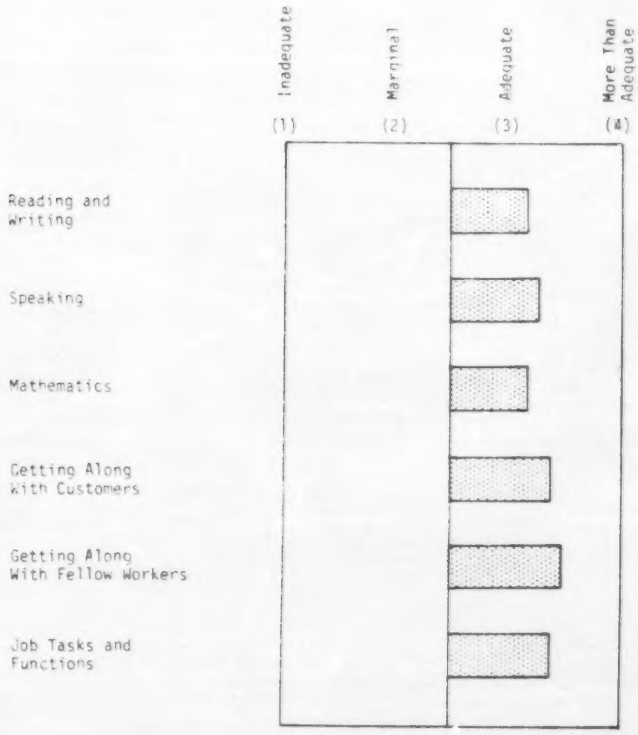


Figure 7

Average Supervisor Ratings of Former Students' Job Performance



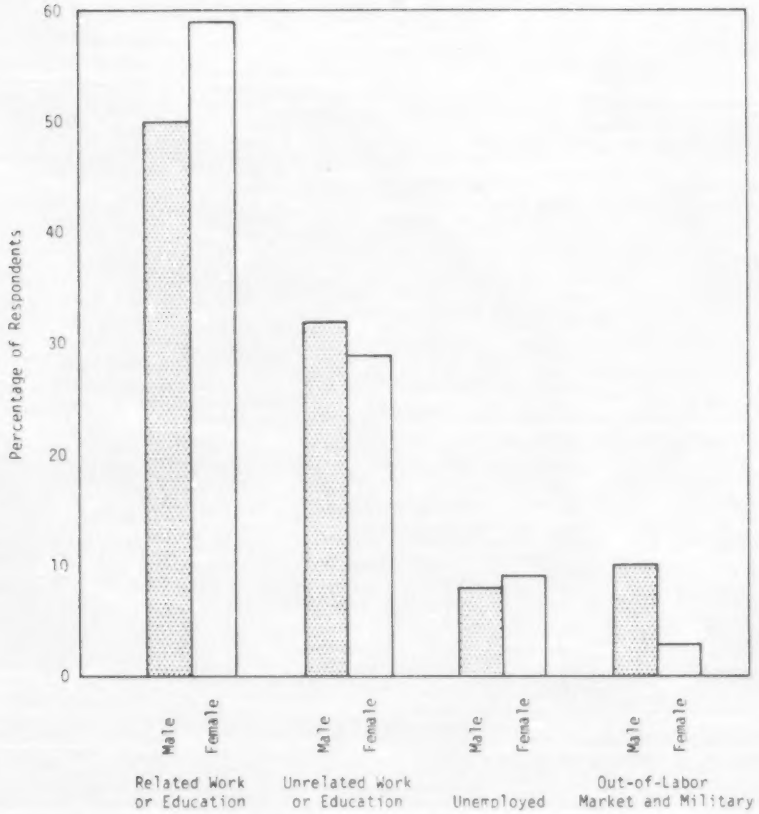
Supervisors were asked to rate the extent to which respondents performed certain functions on their jobs. The functions were reading and writing, speaking, mathematics, getting along with customers, getting along with fellow workers, and job tasks and functions (Figure 7). Supervisors indicated that the former students' performance on the job was generally "adequate" or better. Supervisor ratings appear in Appendix D.

Current Activity by Sex

Figure 8 shows the current activity of former students by sex. More females (59%) than males (50%) indicated that they were engaged in related work or further education. More males (10%) than females (3%) were out-of-the-labor market or in the military. The status of respondents by sex is shown in Appendix E.

Figure 8

Current Activity of Former Students
By Sex
(N=2034)



Income by Sex

Average (median) income earned by males and females is shown in Figure 9. As in the previous year, female median monthly income was lower than the male median monthly income ($677 and $800, respectively). Income data is reported in Appendix B.

Former Student Ratings by Sex

There were no apparent differences between males and females on ratings of high school programs. Male and female average ratings of vocational guidance and counseling, basic education, job skills, and technical knowledge preparation appear in Appendix F.

Figure 9

Average (Median) Monthly Salaries of Former Students Employed in Related Occupations by Sex

(N=321)

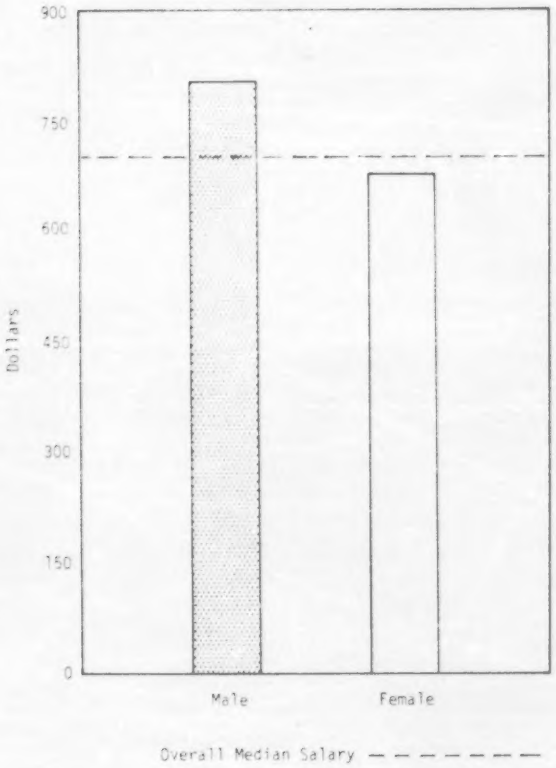
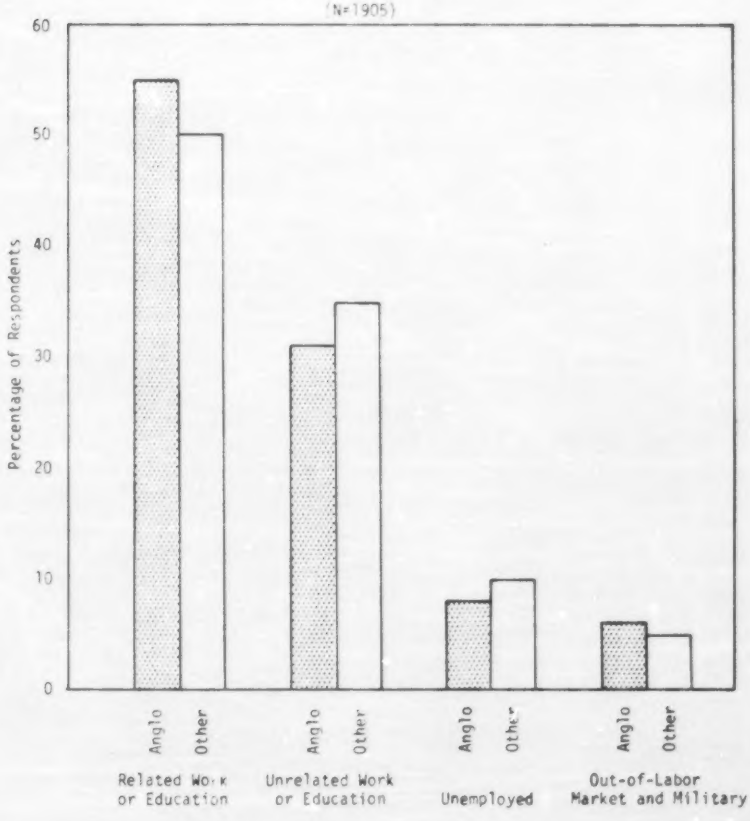


Figure 10

Current Activity of Former Students by Race/Ethnicity

(N=1905)



Race/Ethnicity

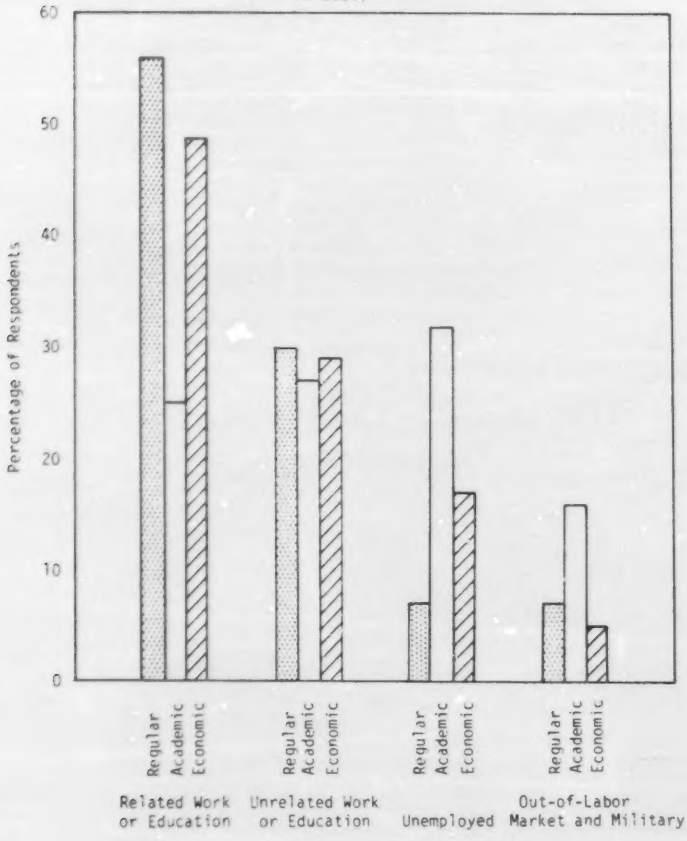
The current activity of former students by race/ethnicity is shown in Figure 10. There was little difference in the activity of Anglo and other respondents (Appendix G). A comparison of average (median) monthly salaries of Anglo and other respondents is shown in Appendix B. Anglo respondents reported earning slightly more than others. The median monthly income for Anglos was $703 while median monthly income for others was $675.

Disadvantagement

The current activity of former students by disadvantagement is shown in Figure 11. Academically disadvantaged respondents reported the highest proportion of persons unemployed and out-of-the-labor market/military (32% and 16% respectively). This group also reported the lowest proportion of participants in related work or education and unrelated work or education (25% and 27% respectively). Appendix H shows the distribution of current activity by disadvantagement.

Figure 11

Current Activity of Former Students
by Disadvantagement
(N=2029)



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C	Average Former Student Ratings of High School Programs by Current Activity
D	Average Supervisor Ratings of Former Students' Vocational Preparation
E	Current Activity of Former Students by Sex
F	Average Former Student Ratings of High School Programs by Sex
G	Current Status of Former Students by Race/Ethnicity
H	Current Activity of Former Students by Disadvantagement

APPENDIX A

FORMER STUDENT CURRENT ACTIVITY
BY PROGRAM AREA
(N=2033)

Program	Related Employment or Education	Unrelated Employment and Education	Unemployed	Out-of-Labor Market	Military		Total
Agriculture (N=154)	56%	27	9	3	5	=	100%
Marketing (N=133)	55%	31	7	1	6	=	100%
Health Occ (N=89)	60%	33	4	--	3	=	100%
Food Services (N=45)	36%	36	22	2	4	=	100%
Accounting (N=269)	61%	32	4	2	1	=	100%
Clerical (N=308)	50%	38	8	2	2	=	100%
Secretarial (N=380)	60%	28	9	3	--	=	100%
Mechanics (N=179)	47%	30	10	1	12	=	100%
Construction (N=133)	45%	31	11	--	13	=	100%
Electronics (N=60)	68%	30	2	--	--	=	100%
Metals (N=111)	55%	19	11	3	12	=	100%
Child Care (N=47)	47%	36	7	4	6	=	100%
Clothing (N=7)	--	--	--	--	--	=	--
Home Mgmt (N=1)	--	--	--	--	--	=	--
Drafting (N=22)	68%	23	5	--	4	=	100%
Graphics (N=19)	63%	37	--	--	--	=	100%
Service (N=42)	52%	24	12	--	12	=	100%
Forest Products (N=31)	58%	19	10	10	3	=	100%

APPENDIX B

AVERAGE (MEDIAN) MONTHLY SALARIES OF FORMER STUDENTS
EMPLOYED FULL-TIME IN RELATED OCCUPATIONS
BY PROGRAM AREA, SEX, AND RACE/ETHNICITY

	N	Median Income
Program		
Agriculture	27	$750
Marketing	19	810
Accounting	32	713
Clerical	38	680
Secretarial	86	708
Mechanics	32	733
Construction	19	742
Metals	20	900
Overall	320	$701
Sex		
Male	136	$800
Female	185	677
Overall	321	$703
Race/Ethnicity		
Anglo	295	$703
Other	13	675
Overall	308	$700

APPENDIX C

AVERAGE FORMER STUDENT RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS
BY CURRENT ACTIVITY

Current Activity	Vocational Guidance & Counseling		Basic Education Skills		Job Skills		Technical Knowledge	
	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean	N	Mean
Related Employment or Education	1086	2.4	1092	2.5	1083	2.5	1070	2.3
Unrelated Employment or Education	588	2.1	596	2.5	587	2.2	578	2.1
Unemployed	158	2.2	158	2.4	158	2.2	156	2.1
Overall Rating	1832	2.3	1846	2.5	1828	2.3	1804	2.2

APPENDIX D

AVERAGE SUPERVISOR RATINGS OF FORMER STUDENTS' VOCATIONAL PREPARATION

Characteristics	N	Mean
Vocational Training		
Technical Knowledge	213	3.88
Work Attitude	212	4.25
Work Quality	211	4.17
Overall Rating of Training	301	4.01
Relative Preparation	138	4.57
Job Performance		
Reading and Writing	207	3.29
Speaking	207	3.32
Mathematics	183	3.20
Getting Along with Customers	192	3.46
Getting Along with Fellow Workers	213	3.58
Job Tasks and Functions	212	3.42

Scale: 1 = very poor, 2 = poor, 3 = average, 4 = good, 5 = very good

APPENDIX E

CURRENT ACTIVITY OF FORMER STUDENTS
BY SEX

(N=2034)

Activity	Male N		Female N	
Related Employment or Education	463	50	650	59
Unrelated Employment or Education	299	32	322	29
Unemployed	71	8	94	9
Out-of-Labor Market and Military Service	99	10	36	3
Total	932	46	1102	54

APPENDIX F

AVERAGE FORMER STUDENT RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS BY SEX

Sex	Vocational Guidance & Counseling N	Mean	Basic Education Skills N	Mean	Job Skills N	Mean	Technical Knowledge N	Mean
Male	1104	2.3	1113	2.5	1097	2.3	1094	2.2
Female	1252	2.3	1264	2.5	1254	2.3	1226	2.2
Overall Rating	2356	2.3	2377	2.5	2351	2.3	2320	2.2

APPENDIX G

CURRENT STATUS OF FORMER STUDENTS
BY RACE/ETHNICITY

Status	Anglo	Other	Total
Employment	(N=1361)	(N=66)	(N=1427)
Employed Full-Time Related	23%	21%	23%
Employed Part-Time Related	13	12	13
Employed Unrelated	1	1	1
Unemployed	26	32	26
Out-of-Labor Market	31	32	31
Military	6	2	6
Total	100%	100%	100%
Educational	(N=2173)	(N=85)	(N=2258)
Related Education	33	34	34
Unrelated Education	26	33	33
No Further Education	41	33	33
Total	100%	100%	100%
Current Activity	(N=1823)	(N=82)	(N=1905)
Related Employment or Education	55	50	54
Unrelated Employment or Education	30	35	31
Unemployed	8	10	8
Out-of-Labor Market	2	4	2
Military Service	5	1	5
Total	100%	100%	100%

APPENDIX H

CURRENT ACTIVITY OF FORMER STUDENTS
BY DISADVANTAGEMENT
(N=2029)

Activity	Regular (N=1936) %	Academic (N=52) %	Economic (N=41) %
Related Employment or Education	56	25	49
Unrelated Employment or Education	30	27	29
Unemployed	7	32	17
Out-of-Labor Market or Military	7	16	5
Total	100%	100%	100%

FOLLOW-UP OF 1980 SECONDARY VOCATIONAL PROGRAM GRADUATES AND EARLY LEAVERS

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